

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 IO-10 COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01

SAJ-01 /091 W

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P R 121122Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8120

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1439

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 DECLASS 1/1/99

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, UK, TZ

SUBJECT: HART TALKS WITH MACHEL: UK-MOZAMBIQUE AGREE TO
ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

REF: LONDON 7079; LOURENCO MARQUES 470

1. SUMMARY: UK MINISTER HART AND FRELIMO PRESIDENT MACHEL
IN TALK HERE MAY 10 AGREED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.
MACHEL CONFIRMED UK WILL BE INVITED TO MOZAMBIQUE INDEPENDENCE
CELEBRATIONS JUNE 25. UK OFFERED INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE "SUB-
STANTIAL SUM" ANNUALLY TO SUPPORT SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA.
INITIALLY THESE FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND
BUDGET SUPPORT. HART TOLD MACHEL THAT BEIRA PATROL WILL
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END WHEN MOZAMBIQUE BECOMES INDEPENDENT. UK OFFICIALS NOTE

THAT FRELIMO OFFICIALS ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO QUESTIONS OF THEIR STATUS AND POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. UK COUNSELOR STRONG BRIEFED US MAY 12 ON FLYING VISIT TO DAR ES SALAAM OVER WEEK-END OF UK MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT (ODM) JUDITH HART WITH FRELIMO PRESIDENT MACHEL. UK HAD TRIED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS PAST TO HAVE FONMIN CALLAGHAN OR HART MEET WITH MACHEL, BUT EITHER UK MINISTERS COULD NOT GET FREE BECAUSE OF INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN UK WHEN MACHEL AVAILABLE OR MACHEL NOT FREE WHEN UK MINISTER COULD MAKE TRIP. FINALLY UK ASKED PRESIDENT NYERERE TO ASSIST IN MAKING APPOINTMENT. NYERERE PROPOSED VISIT THIS WEEK-END TO HART, PROMISING TO PRODUCE MACHEL. HART AGREED TO COME ON THIS SHORT NOTICE EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD TO BE IN PARLIAMENT ON MONDAY, MAY 12.

3. HART ACCOMPANIED AT MAY 10 MEETING BY PRIVATE SECRETARY, LABOR PARTY ADVISOR AND UK HICOM BROWN. MACHEL ACCOMPANIED BY DOS SANTOS AND TWO OTHERS FROM FRELIMO. FOLLOWING FOUR TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED:

4. ECONOMIC AID: HART OFFERED "SUBSTANTIAL SUM" ANNUALLY TO MACHEL AS UK PORTION OF COMMONWEALTH GRANT TO FACILITATE INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE SUPPORT OF SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. (STRONG SAID HE WOULD NOT COMMENT WHETHER 20 MILLION POUNDS STERLING ANNUALLY, WHICH BISHOP MUZOREWA REPORTEDLY ESTIMATES AS COST OF MOZAMBIQUE APPLYING SANCTIONS, IS ACCURATE FIGURE AS TO WHAT UK OFFERED MACHEL.) INITIALLY THESE FUNDS WOULD BE USED BY NEWLY INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND BUDGET SUPPORT. LATER IT IS HOPED UK AID FUNDS WILL BE USED ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. UK MAKING THIS GENEROUS OFFER BECAUSE IT BELIEVES IF RHODESIA SITUATION EVER TO BE GOTTEN OF UK HANDS, AND IN PEACEFUL MANNER, PRESENT SITUATION IS BEST OPPORTUNITY UK MAY GET. MACHEL RESPONDED SYMPATHETICALLY TO PROPOSAL BUT DID NOT COMMIT INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE TO FULL PROGRAM OF SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. UK BELIEVES MACHEL AND OTHER FRELIMO LEADERS WANT MONEY IN BANK, WANT TO HAVE CHANCE TO ENJOY FRUITS OF INDEPENDENCE AND DO NOT WANT NOT WISH TO BECOME EMBROILED IN ANOTHER'S WAR IF THAT CAN BE AVOIDED. ON THIS LAST POINT, FRELIMO IS WELL AWARE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITARY STRENGTH OF RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES AND OF HOW VULNERABLE MOZAMBIQUE CITIES ARE TO ANY PREEMPTIVE STRIKE BY THESE FORCES SHOULD RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDE TO TAKE THAT COURSE. SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, THEREFORE, HAS GREATER APPEAL TO FRELIMO LEADERS THAN SUPPORT OF ARMED INSURGENCY WHICH WOULD HAVE SANCTUARY BASES IN MOZAMBIQUE.

5. DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION: HART SAID UK WOULD EXPECT TO

OPEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL ON INDEPENDENCE JUNE 25. MACHEL AGREED.

6. INVITATION TO INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS: HART SAID UK EXPECTED TO BE INVITED TO INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS JUNE 25. MACHEL CONFIRMED INVITATION IS FORTHCOMING. CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND ATTENDANCE AT INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, UK OFFICIALS UNANIMOUSLY OF OPINION THAT MACHEL AND OTHER FRELIMO LEADERS ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ON MATTERS OF THEIR STATUS. ANY SUGGESTION OF SLIGHT TO THEIR POSITION BRINGS EXTREME REACTION. IN THIS REGARD, UK BELIEVES "NEW FACES" PREREQUISITE FOR ESTABLISHING SUCCESSFUL RELATIONS WITH INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE. UK DELEGATION TO CEREMONIES WILL BE HEADED BY APPROPRIATELY HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL, AND UK AMBASSADOR WILL BE MEMBER OF DELEGATION OR IN WINGS READY TO TAKE OVER NEW EMBASSY AS SOON AFTER INDEPENDENCE AS POSSIBLE. UK ALSO EXPECTS CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RHETORIC AT INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS TO BE DIRECTED AGAINST THOSE WHO DID NOT HELP IN INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE. UK IS PREPARED TO STAND AND TAKE IT, AND THEN FORGET IT. THEY ARE HOPEFUL THESE ORATORICAL EXCESSES WILL GET MUCH OF THIS SORT OF THING OUT OF SYSTEM OF FRELIMO LEADERS. THEY BELIEVE MACHEL WILL BE FAIRLY PRAGMATIC ONCE CONFIRMED IN OFFICE. FOR EXAMPLE, MACHEL ADMITTED TO HART HE DID NOT HAVE GRASP OF CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE AND THEN SAID THAT SHE (HART) PROBABLY KNEW WHAT ARE PROBLEMS AND WHAT IS NEEDED BETTER THAN HE DOES.

7. BEIRA PATROL: FINAL POINT HART MADE TO MACHEL WAS THAT UK WOULD END BEIRA PATROL ON INDEPENDENCE OF MOZAMBIQUE. UK RATIONALE IS THAT NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRY WOULD DO ITS BEST TO ENFORCE UN SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA WITHOUT NEED OF PATROL. MACHEL CONCURRED.

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8. COMMENT: ACCORDING STRONG, UK RECOGNIZES THERE IS STILL GOOD POSSIBILITY RHODESIA SITUATION WILL DETERIORATE INTO BLOODY VIOLENCE. NEVERTHELESS UK BELIEVES THIS IS BEST CHANCE THAT MAY COME ALONG TO FIND PEACEFUL WAY SETTLE RHODESIA PROBLEM. FOR THIS REASON, THEY ARE PREPARED TO COME UP WITH THEIR "SUBSTANTIAL SUM." FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE HERE, WE THINK UK IS RIGHT. CONCERNING THE SENSITIVITIES OF FRELIMO'S LEADERS, WE ALSO BELIEVE UK VIEW IS ON TARGET. OUR OWN EXPERIENCE HAS SUGGESTED THIS TOO. FRELIMO SENSITIVITY NEEDS NO BELABORING, BUT WE SHOULD NOT FORGET IT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, POLICIES, EMBARGOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DARES01439
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2 S 1/1/99
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750165-0758
From: DAR ES SALAAM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750558/aaaacari.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LONDON 7079, 75 LOURENCO MARQUES 470
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HART TALKS WITH MACHEL: UK-MOZAMBIQUE AGREE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, MZ, UK, TZ, (MACHEL, SAMORA), (HART)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006